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Jericho has been the centre of a good part of our thought and most of our time for the last month and this letter will perforce be given over to a chronicle of our work down there. All of the staff and student-body are ensconced in the dig-house or in tents immediately adjacent to 'Ain es-Sultan, the perennial spring whose refreshing waters have always provided the indispensable condition of any occupation in the area and which have made this location a centre of human habitation for thousands of years. The dig-house itself is a stone and mud-brick structure which once served as a mill, and as such is referred to in the plans of the site drawn up by the German excavators Sellin and Watzinger. It served as Garstang's dig-house and once more it is pressed into service to house the office, work-shops and dining room for the whole group of excavators and sleeping-quarters for the lady members of the staff. The concrete canal which once carried the water to the wheel still runs past our dining-room windows but now it is dry. It was a rather annoying obstacle to easy passage from one part of our property to the other until we constructed a sort of stile arrangement with stone steps leading up and over it. The male members of the expedition are housed in tents in front of the house and behind it. Little streams run in every direction, sometimes between the tents, sometimes canalized into concrete channels to facilitate the drawing of water. When to this profuseness of flowing water is added a considerable quantity of rain and a water table which rises as a result to the extent that it constantly threatens to swamp the floor of the house, one can see that there is no shortage of water in our two-immediate vicinity. The contrast with the situation at Dhiban where every drop of water must be carefully treasured up in cisterns from one winter's rainfall to the next is complete. There we learned to harbour our supply and make do with very little. At Jericho we can use as much as we like. At Dhiban we took sponge-baths and found them unsatisfactory. At Jericho we can just lie down in our own private canal behind the house. And the water is quite warm - at least in contrast with the air.

At our front door we have a moving-picture which never ceases to fascinate. All day long there is a steady procession of women coming for water. Last year there were many who carried their water away on their heads in jerry-cans, gasoline tins or the like. But such containers are no longer to be had in any quantity and more and more the women are reverting to the much more picturesque and beautiful water-jars. Unless one has seen a group of women with jars on heads sailing along with their long clothes flying in the wind for all the world like a flotilla of schooners, one cannot imagine the grace and strength required to handle these jars. And the costumes! Most of the women come from one of the three large refugee camps in the Jericho area - the 'Ain es-Sultan Camp just north of the tell. Being refugees they come from all parts of what is now Israel and have brought with them their own native style of clothing. Almost every village has its own peculiar mode of cut and colour. The mixture of styles in front of our house is amazing, almost a complete fashion parade of the Arab world. The dresses are heavy with embroidery, and necklaces, anklets, bracelets and nose-jewels add their chime and shine to the heavy head-dresses ornamented with coins which many wear. In comparison the men

are very drab. They do not carry jars. If they come for water, they drive up in large tank trucks or carry it away strapped to donkeys and camels. Their costumes are largely western, with the one exception of the colourful head-scarf called the kefiyyeh held in place with its black rope or agal.

As if the human participants were not exotic enough, the very scenery of Jericho provides a back-drop which can hardly be imagined. In the background are the bare Judean hills to the west, or the desert Jordan valley to the east with the blue mountains of ancient Moab beyond. Palm trees of all kinds, bananas, citrus groves, a profusion of flowers and cane, all provide a kaleidoscope of tropical colour. The sky may be an unclouded blue, or, more often at this time of year, may be obscured by threatening black clouds which usually pass over without dropping their rain but provide the wherewithal for fantastic sunsets. All in all the scene is unbelievable. It looks so much like some of the more lurid examples of the calendar illustrator's art at home, that one can hardly believe that it really exists.

I have called the scene exotic. In such a place the archaeologist seems often to be out of place. He definitely clashes with his environment. But the contrast is not so great as it might seem. Our workmen, too, many of them, are most interested in archaeology and not only for the money it brings into their pockets. Many of them speak good English and have good education, particularly among the refugees. They have a natural aptitude for taking pains and without their patience and skill the work could hardly be done at all.

It must be remembered that the archaeologists are not working in solitude. The immediate district of Jericho contains some hundred thousand inhabitants - counting both Jericho citizens and refugees. Our work is more to be compared with that of workmen digging the foundations for a skyscraper in New York - from the point of view of the number of onlookers, not the technique employed. We have many curious observers, adults and children, men and women. We even had a Boy Scout encampment right on the tell for a short time!

Those of you who have read the reports of our work last spring will remember that we opened up a large trench five meters wide running through the defenses of the city from the top of the tell westward to the bottom. This year we are continuing work in this trench to trace completely the stages of occupation on the tell down to the native rock. Last season we reached the work just below the foundations of the pre-pottery Neolithic city wall. Now we have reached it at the bottom of the outermost and latest of the three Middle Bronze revetments. We are extending our trench to the northward at its lower end to lay bare the building of the Iron II period (later Hebrew monarchy), of which one corner only came to light last season.

It is obviously important that we should discover more about the early Neolithic city wall referred to above. Miss Kenyon, the Director of our joint British School and American School endeavour at Jericho, thought that the most economical way of doing this would be to clear out the great trench dug by the German expedition before the first World War. One of the great surprises of this year's work up to the present has been the discovery of the fact that the Germans actually reached pre-pottery Neolithic phases without recognizing them. At least three of the finely burnished plaster floors which became so famous when discovered again later by Garstang had been cut through by the earlier excavators. That they should not recognize their date and importance is understandable when one considers that the materials for erecting a consistent pottery chronology for Palestine were not at hand in their time or had not been organized. That such a ceramic index is now so firmly established is in very large part due to the efforts of our Professor Albright when he was Director here at the School in Jerusalem and in his constant

attempts to refine and clarify the system ever since. Work on the two squares on top of the tell near the upper end of the long trench is being continued. In both, the stage of pre-pottery Neolithic has been reached and the prospects of our learning much more about this fascinating early culture are excellent. We have been somewhat disappointed in our hopes for the excavation of the area immediately to the south of the large trench where Garstang first recognized this pre-pottery culture. Last season we removed a large modern dump from this spot in hopes that we would descend through approximately 30 feet of solid Early Bronze and perhaps Chalcolithic deposits, finally reaching pottery and pre-pottery Neolithic. But this 30 feet is shrinking rapidly. Many walls and foundations are preserved to the present surface but they have been so badly cut into in later times - especially during the Byzantine period - that most stratification evidence for dating them has been disturbed or completely destroyed. We still hope that when we get to the bottom of these great rubble pits that we shall find undisturbed levels which will give us good material of the Early Bronze series of cultures at Jericho.

Last season's work in tombs produced an amazing array of excellent Early Bronze, and Middle Bronze tombs. One or two of the latter in particular were very rich in their contents and we discovered just how well human remains and other perishable things could be preserved in the dry climate of Jericho. This year, further tomb work is not disappointing us. Already we have two excellent Middle Bronze age tombs, one of which will probably be reconstructed in toto in the Amman Museum. One tomb contains a mass of wooden material, - a bed, a table, a chair or two, a large inlaid box, bowls, etc. The proper treatment of this to prevent its complete disintegration is a most intricate and time-consuming task, compounded by the necessity of working in cramped quarters, and up until recently, in almost total darkness. Hurricane lamps, candles and flashlights were insufficient and pressure lamps gave off such heat that they had a bad effect on the materials to be preserved and on the personnel doing the work. Mr. Harding, the Head of the Department of Antiquities, came to our rescue with a small portable generator, so the work now goes forward apace and under conditions which should make possible at least the reconstruction of the materials on paper if not in real fact. A new tomb area discovered this season has provided so far one Iron II tomb with the prospect of more to come. Quite a large number of whole pieces came from this tomb even though it was collapsed when found and many more sherds can probably be put together to provide a large repertoire of pottery objects from the period of Hiel or a little later. Another tomb which has produced a mass of pottery, may well be Upper Chalcolithic.

And so the work goes on. You may wonder what sort of staff we have to handle all the different tasks. Miss Kenyon is the Director. Her ability to keep all the different activities correlated, to interpret the many mysteries of stratification and her business-like but affable personality make her all that one could desire in the leader of this joint expedition. She brought with her from England a group of men and women, most of whom have had experience on other excavations in other countries or were here at Jericho last year - a photographer, a technician, a surveyor, a housekeeper, a registrar in chief, specialists in tomb work and other of the many aspects of the work, and others who supervise individual sites. The Department of Antiquities has a representative in Auni Dajani, Inspector of Antiquities for West Jordan. It was he who last year discovered the Neolithic city wall. This year he is concentrating on laying bare more of its length. The American School has provided Neil Richardson, our Fellow; Mr. and Mrs. Fisher and son Wilkin who makes himself useful in many ways; Mr. Robert Andry, Mr. Edwin Broome and Mrs. Broome who has been doing some stenographic work in registration; Mr. James Warren and myself. Mr. Warren unfortunately acquired a case of malaria which developed into jaundice soon after the dig started and he has been incapacitated in Jerusalem since that time. I am happy to report however that he is well on the mend and will soon be back in his section, striving to find still intact



areas in the neighbourhood of Gartsang's Middle Bronze store-rooms area from which evidence of the Middle Bronze and Late Bronze occupations may be derived.

The School in Jerusalem, needless to say, has not been a very busy place. We have had few visitors and those who have been here have not stayed long. Our guest of longest standing is Mrs. McNulty of California who is busy on her own project of studying Jerusalem's walls and gates. We had a shorter visit from Miss Pitts and Miss Lloyd of the American Girls College in Istanbul.

Even our students find the warmer air of Jericho so enticing that they visit Jerusalem only when they have to. But one week-end saw the School full. Miss Kenyon's birthday and the reunion with old friends from Britain of last year's staff provided sufficient occasion for a Jericho-Homecoming party. The whole Jericho staff was invited to the School in Jerusalem as guests for the week-end of January 10th. This included a party in the Director's house on Saturday night. Bridge and canasta tables were set up in the living room. A good fire in the fireplace made all cheery and I think all enjoyed a good time. Records and a player were obtained for dancing in the dining-room.

Other activities of the Jericho group have included a moonlight excursion to the Dead Sea last Friday night. A few hardy souls even went swimming but to all of us the big bonfire was the chief attraction. This indeed provided an unexpected display. The wood and brush we used for fuel were apparently well soaked in Dead Sea salts. The result was a most pungent odour reminiscent of a chemistry laboratory, but a wonderful display of coloured flames - blue, green, purple. Today most of the group is visiting Tell Far'a under Père de Vaux's guidance, and Samaria-Sebaste under Miss Kenyon's. And so the work at Jericho progresses, and again I close by sending you all best wishes from Jerusalem and the American School.

A.D. Tushingham, Director.